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Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

MEYERS - Mels Olie Meyers passed away on May 7, 1973 at Grande Prairie at the age of 88 years.

Mr. Meyers was born at Norway and has been a resident of Grande Prairie.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Alma, one son Edwin, DeBolt, 6 daughters, Mrs. Florence McDonald, Taylor, B.C., Mrs. Hazel Buonsignore, Grande Prairie, Mrs. Anna Steeves, Grande Prairie, Mrs. Katherine Talbot, Berwyn, Mrs. Ruth Steeves, Grande Prairie, Mrs. Irene Cowpar, Watson Lake, Yukon, 18 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held May 11 at 2 p.m. from the Oliver Funeral Chapel in Grande Prairie with Rev. D. Waite officiating, interment followed in the Glenn Leslie cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Vern Strid, Don Strid, Ed Bredeson, Lloyd Steeves, Dennis Steeves, Ernest Bredeson. Arrangements were by the Oliver Funeral home of Grande Prairie.

HAZEL MAE BEAUSIGNORE

Hazel Mae Beausignore passed away at Grande Prairie on Tuesday, July 29, 1980, at the age of 51 years. She was born in Grande Prairie.

She is survived by two sons: Vern Strid and Don Strid, both of Grovedale; one daughter, Diana Strid of Dawson City, Y.T.; six grandchildren and several nieces and nephews; one brother, Edwin (Mary) Meyers of DeBolt; five sisters: Florence (Robert) McDonald of Taylor Flats, B.C., Anna (Herbert) Steeves of Grande Prairie, Ruth (William) Steeves of Grande Prairie, Katherine (Donald) Talbot of Berwyn, and Irene

(Edward) Lowpar of Dawson Creek, B.C.

Funeral service for the late Hazel Mae Beausignore will be held tomorrow from Oliver Funeral Chapel at 2 p.m., with Canon E.P. Williston officiating. Interment will follow at Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Donations to the charity of one's choice would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel.

Oliver Talbot 80, of Teepee Creek

Oliver Dee Talbot passed away from lung cancer at the Valleyview Hospital on September 30, 1997 at the age of 80 years.

Oliver was born on September 1, 1917 on the family farm near Dimsdale, second child of Edson Trail pioneers, Norm and Nina Talbot. Oliver will be forever fondly remembered as a great jokester, story teller and crib player.

He leaves to mourn his children; Dolores McKay of Calgary, Christine McKay (Lorne Johnson) of Valleyview, Valerie (Chris) Weiss of Crooked Creek, Jim Talbot of Teepee Creek, Rhonda (Tustan) Jevne of Texada Island, B.C., Russell Talbot of Sexsmith and their mother Alene Talbot of Valleyview; three sisters Pearl (Elmer) McLaughlin of Bezanson, Eileen (late Leslie) Hoag and Norma (late Bill) White of Teepee Creek, and one brother Donald (Katherine) Talbot of Grande Prairie; sixteen grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 4, 1997 in Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 Ave.) Grande Prairie, Alta. with interment to follow at the Teepee Creek Cemetery.

Public visitation for family and friends will be held on Friday, October 3, 1997 from 7-8 p.m. from Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of ones choice.

Arrangements by Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL**

10005-107 Ave., Grande Prairie
Telephone 532-2929

"Dedicated Service Since 1915"

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Alma Frances Meyers 92, of Grande Prairie

Alma Frances Meyers of Grande Prairie, Alta. passed away peacefully at the Grande Prairie Care Center on May 11, 1998 at the age of 92 years.

Alma leaves to mourn her son Edwin (Mary) Meyers of Goodwin, Alta., her daughters Florence (Edwin)



Bennington of Fort St. John, B.C.; Anna (Herb) Steeves of Grande Prairie, Alta.; Katherin (Don) Talbot of Grande Prairie, Alta.; and Irene

(Edward) Cowpar of Grande Prairie; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband of 50 years Nels Meyers, her son Karl Meyers, her daughters; Hazel Strid and Ruth Steeves and her grandson Dennis Steeves. This gracious lady will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

A funeral service will be held at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel, 10005-107 Avenue, on Friday, May 15, 1998 at 1 p.m. with Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie officiating. Visitation on Thursday, May 14, from 7-8 p.m. Interment at Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Donations in Alma's memory may be made to the Alberta Heart and Stroke Foundation.

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Pioneer families honoured

Johnstons, Talbots
linked by a past
that goes back to
the late 1800s

BILL LAYE

Herald-Tribune staff

The times were definitely tough, but the memories were always fond, say representatives of September's Pioneer Families of the Month.

The Johnstons and Talbots came to Alberta, first to Lacombe, in the late 1800s.

The Johnstons came up from Iowa and Norman Talbot, who was to marry Frank 'Lacombe' Johnston's daughter Nina, came from Guelph, Ont.

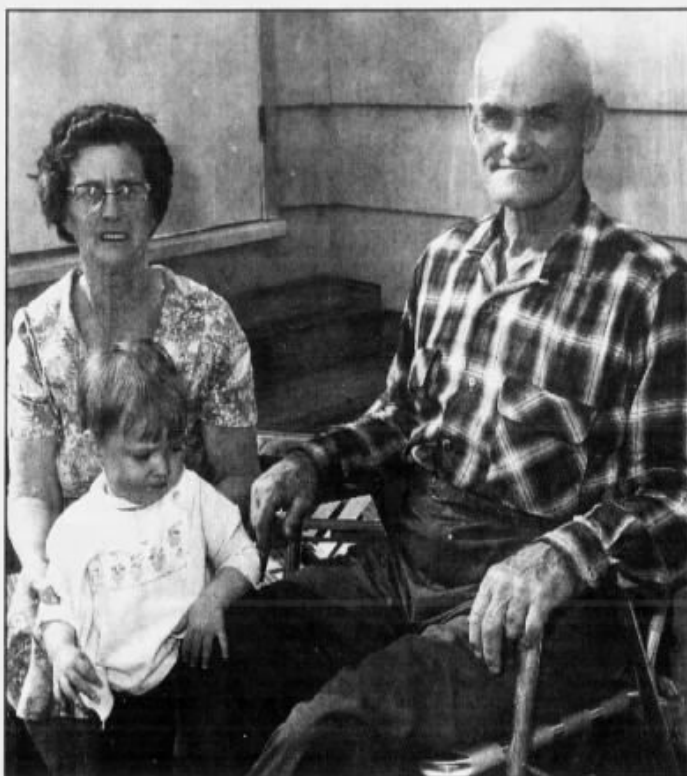
Marriage and the trail north mingled their story from there in 1910. Frank Johnston, his son Ralph and son-in-law to be Norman loaded their families into a horse-drawn 'caboose' — complete with a kitchen and washroom — and moved to land in what was then called Spring Lake (now Dimsdale).

They came to the Peace Country via Lesser Slave Lake, a trip of nearly three months, before the Edson trail had even been blazed.

PIANO SAGA

Of course they packed only the essentials for the trip, meat, potatoes, oats, flour ... and Mrs. Johnston's piano.

Nina Talbot, now deceased, explained the piano saga when interviewed by the Grande Prairie Booster in 1974: "Mother's piano was the only piece of furniture taken from our home, but she was a good pioneer — never whimpered a



Ralph and Manilla Johnston with their 18-month-old granddaughter Pamela in this photo that ran in the Daily Herald-Tribune May 26, 1966.

bit about what had to be left behind."

The menfolk weren't too impressed, though.

The imposing instrument was about 52 inches tall and profoundly heavy.

"Dad hated that piano," laughed Pearl McLaughlin, Norman Talbot's eldest daughter.

"Along the way they'd have given anything to have thrown that piano in the bush. It was a steel-back and the heaviest thing ever," chuckled Dorothy Bielecki, Anna Johnston's granddaughter through Ralph.

Harold Johnston remembers his grandmother put the old keys to good use.

"She knew every hymn that was ever invented," he chuckled.

The piano, reportedly still in tune, made it to the homestead in one piece, to be played for friends, Sunday school classes, and a dozen grandchildren.

Nina and Norman Talbot had Pearl (McLaughlin) in 1916, Oliver in 1917, Eileen (Hoag) in 1919, Norma (White) in 1926, and Don in 1930.

On the Johnston side, Manilla

and Ralph had Clarence in 1920, Pollyanna (Kilgour) in 1921, Kenneth in 1924, Harold in 1925, Marvin in 1929, Dorothy (Bielecki) in 1932, and James in 1939.

When the path to Edson was cleared in 1911, the families, who worked in the lumber industry and the coal mines as well as farming, made several trips along the route for trade.

A PRIVILEGE

Manilla Johnston always told her kids it was a privilege she was one of the women who got to drive her own team over the arduous trail — a feat she did at least twice.

"One time she had a purebred Clydesdale stallion hooked single to a flat deck, and she had the load of flour," said Bielecki recounting a story her mother told her.

"She was coming down the hill one day and it got going too fast — her, the horse, the flour and everything ended up in the bush," she laughed.

Being able to wear many hats was a trademark of the pioneers, they all agreed.

"Dad could do just about anything you could name," Bielecki said. "Grandma could (actually) make a purse out of a sow's ear," added McLaughlin.

And the memories, heavy piano and all, were always happy ones.

"Dad would always say, 'But we did have our fun, didn't we Mom?'" Bielecki recalled.

"And she'd say, 'Yes, we did!'"

The Johnston/Talbot display will be opening at the museum Sept. 5 at 2 p.m.

Irene Mary Cowpar 58, of Grande Prairie



On Friday, September 20, 2002, Irene Cowpar, longtime resident of Grande Prairie, passed away at the

Queen Elizabeth II Hospital at the age of 58 years.

Irene was born January 17, 1944 in Grande Prairie. She really enjoyed curling, playing softball and golfing.

Left behind to mourn her passing is: her loving husband Edward, her son Bradley (Christina) of Beaverlodge, two grandchildren Mitchell Clark and Tanner Schmuhl, her brother Edwin (Mary) Meyers of Clairmont, three sisters: Florence McDonald of Ft. St. John, BC, Anna (Herb) Steeves of Grande Prairie and Katherine (Donald) Talbot of Grande Prairie, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and many other relatives and friends.

Irene was predeceased by her parents, Nels and Alma Meyers, her brother Carl Meyers and 2 sisters, Hazel Strid and Ruth Steeves.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 27, 2002 at 2 p.m. from Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 ave) with Rev. Donald Bolstad officiating.

If friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL &
CREMATORIUM**

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Karen Nina Talbot



Karen Nina Talbot, long-time resident of the Grande Prairie and Sexsmith area passed away at Sexsmith on Sunday, August 5, 2007 at the age of 42 years.

Karen was born in Grande Prairie and throughout her life lived in Grande Prairie, Berwyn and Sexsmith. At the time of her death she was residing with her husband Andrew Rak and son Blake Talbot-Wald.

She will be sadly missed by her husband, son, mother Kay Talbot; sisters Beverley (Vic), Barbara (Frank), Audrey (Rick) and brother Kelly, as well as the Rak family.

Karen will be also missed by nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Karen was predeceased by her father Don Talbot and her grandparents.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 Ave) Grande Prairie with Rev. Dr. Henry Victor officiating. Viewing will be held prior to the service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Grande Prairie Public School District for the Disabled Children Fund at Alexander Forbes school. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.olivers-grandeprairie.com

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE FUNERAL
CHAPEL & CREMATORIUM**

Anna Eileen Hoag

1919-2008



It is with great sadness and sorrow that we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother and great grandmother Anna Eileen Hoag of Teepee Creek, Alberta at the age of 88 years.

Eileen was born on March 13, 1919 at Dimsdale, Alberta to Norman and Nina Talbot. She passed away on February 14, 2008 at the Q.E.II Hospital after a lengthy and courageous battle with leukemia.

As a young girl the family moved from Dimsdale to the Kleskun Lake area where she met and married Leslie B. Hoag. They homesteaded at Smokey Heights for years and in 1930 Eileen and Leslie moved to Teepee Creek where she resided until her passing. She was active in the Teepee Creek Ladies Club for many years and volunteered many hours for the Teepee Creek Stampede Association. She loved working in her garden and tending her flower beds.

Eileen was predeceased by her parents Norman and Nina Talbot, her husband Leslie B. Hoag, her brothers Don and Oliver Talbot and one grandson Murray Hoag.

Left to cherish her memory are her three children; Carole (Tom) Rycroft, Randal Hoag (Mary Sutherland) and Norman (Lori) Hoag, sisters Pearl McLaughlin and Norma White and sister-in-law Katherine Talbot, her grandchildren Tim (Laurie) Rycroft, Clinton (Pam) Rycroft, Riley Rycroft, Danny (Nicola) Hoag, Chad (Denise) Hoag, Rob (Janice) Hoag, David, Shelly, Ryan Hoag and 14 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Eileen Hoag will be held at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 Ave) Grande Prairie on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 2 p.m. with Rev. Lew Wiegel Officiating.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to a Charity of Ones Choice.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.oliversgrandeprairie.com

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL &**